

**Amendment No. 1 to SJR0552**

**Carr D  
Signature of Sponsor**

**AMEND Senate Joint Resolution No. 552\***

BY deleting all language following the caption and inserting the following language:

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should applaud those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as professionals and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Susan Whitaker, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, was recently named the 2013 State Tourism Director of the Year by the U.S. Travel Association's National Council of State Tourism Directors; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Whitaker was appointed Commissioner of Tourist Development in 2003 by Governor Phil Bredesen and was reappointed in 2011 by Governor Bill Haslam; and

WHEREAS, with the aid of Susan Whitaker's expertise, Tennessee has an award winning tourism website, fourteen highly rated welcome centers, and a tourism industry that provides \$16.2 billion of direct economic impact and has generated over one billion dollars annually in state and local sales tax revenue for the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development has established a number of highly successful programs, including the Discover Tennessee Trails & Byways program, a Tennessee Civil War Trails program, Tennessee's 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War commemoration, and Tennessee's Sustainable Tourism initiative; and

WHEREAS, appointed to the Civil War Trust Board of Trustees in September 2013, Susan Whitaker also serves as the co-chair of Tennessee's Civil War Sesquicentennial

**Amendment No. 1 to SJR0552**

**Carr D  
Signature of Sponsor**

**AMEND Senate Joint Resolution No. 552\***

Commission, as well as the Tennessee State Fair Commission, and is a member of the Smoky Mountains Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, respected by her peers, Commissioner Whitaker is the secretary of the U.S. Travel Association's Board of Directors and serves on the Executive Committee of the National Council of State Travel Directors, Travel South USA Board of Directors, the University of Tennessee's Retail Hospitality and Tourism Management Advisory Board, and the Governor's International Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, a direct descendent of Tennessee's first Governor, John Sevier, Susan Whitaker holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Northwestern University. Prior to her appointment as commissioner, she served as vice president of marketing for Dollywood, Tennessee's most visited manmade attraction; and

WHEREAS, Susan Whitaker's superb dedication to her profession and the State of Tennessee is most assuredly worthy of this General Assembly's recognition and praise, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Commissioner Susan Whitaker on being named the 2013 State Tourism Director of the Year, thank her for her exemplary service to the State of Tennessee, and extend our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.